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SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 13-22 January 1998
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: OFFICE TREATMENT OF NAMES

The Estonian Law on Place Names

Paper submitted by Estonia**

* E/CONF.91/1.

** Prepared by Peeter Päll, Head of Department, Institute of the Estonian Language.

97-31207 (E) 081297 151297

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INTRODUCTION

First attempts of standardizing Estonian place names were purely linguistical. In the 1920's and 1930's recommendations on spellings of names were given by the Academic Mother Tongue Society. A simple guiding rule that was adopted that time was that names ought to be written in the way they are pronounced. This meant that numerous corruptions of Estonian names used earlier e.g. in German or Russian contexts were not to become accepted spellings in Estonian.

In 1938 the first legal act on place names was adopted that determined the principles of standardization and the competence of state bodies in approving names. The act also devised estonianization of "foreign" place names. The Place Names Board was formed in conjunction with the Ministry of the Interior. One of the Board's first tasks was to revise the list of local administrative units that was completed the same year. Other plans of the Board were not carried out because of the occupation of Estonia in 1940.

During the Soviet period the use of geographical names was regulated by more moderate acts. The last decree on names was issued by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in 1981. The decree contained generally-worded recommendations that "geographical, historical, national, environmental and other local conditions and also the wish of the local inhabitants" be taken into account when approving new names. Another document called for consideration of the "tasks of communist education of citizens" thus legalizing the changes of many place names by the Soviet authorities.

First acts in Estonia after re-establishing the independence concerning geographical names were the Language Law (1995, earlier version in 1989) and the Law on the Administrative Division of the Territory of Estonia (1995). Many aspects remained unclear though, especially the question of who was entitled to approve official place names for different features.

When the Governmental Place Names Committee was formed in November 1994, one of its main tasks was to compile a comprehensive new draft law to deal with the subject. A working group was set up that worked for two years and completed the draft by April 1996. Parliament adopted the Law on Place Names on 11 December 1996.

The law aims at concentrating all major aspects of names standardization into one single act. In compiling the law the expertise of other countries (especially Norway and the Place Names Act, adopted 1991) as well as recommendations of the United Nations on standardizing geographical names were taken into account. The law has three main chapters dealing with competence and procedures in approving place names, requirements to be considered, and the use of place names.

STANDARDIZATION OF PLACE NAMES

The names of administrative units and territorial units (populated places) within parishes are approved by the Government. Local governments are responsible for naming parts of administrative units.

Minister of Communications is entitled to approve names of railway stations, ports, navigation aids, airports and -fields, state roads and aquatorial features. The Minister of the Environment has the right to name physio-geographical features listed in national cadastres or registers. The Minister of Culture approves names for memorial sites and antiquities preservation areas. Before approving the names the ministers will ask the opinion of the local governments concerned. In all cases the opinion of the owner is requested.

To advise the Government and to coordinate the names standardization activities the Place Names Board is envisaged in the Law. The Board has a greater role with respect to the ministers approving names. In the case of local governments the opinion of the Board is asked only in certain conditions.

An Office for Onomastic Expertise is appointed by the Government to give expert statements in the questions of place names and to conduct task research if required by names authorities.

REQUIREMENTS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN STANDARDIZING PLACE NAMES

The place names of Estonia are in the Estonian language. Exceptions are allowed that are historically and culturally motivated. The names are written in the Roman alphabet, names from other writing systems are transcribed according to official tables. The orthographical rules of Estonian have to be taken into account when standardizing Estonian names but the spellings may reflect local (dialectal) features. The spelling of a name will have to be unified if used in different contexts (for different features).

Regarding the choice of new names the law recommends names with long-standing local usage and those with more historical and cultural value. While planning new areas the old names of the locality should be used as widely as possible to preserve the cultural continuity of the landscape. Memorial names are not allowed in the lifetime of the person whose name is proposed. No numbers or other non-word signs must be approved as names.

Changes of official place names are restricted by the law that requires motivated decisions. Names may be changed to avoid identical names, to correct inaccurate spellings, to replace existing official names with names rooted in local usage but e.g. renaming streets and giving them memorial names would require the consent of the Minister of the Interior who would ask for the opininon of the Place Names Board. (Giving memorial names to new streets with no previous names is not restricted.)

MINORITY NAMES

By referring to non-Estonian place names that are historically and culturally motivated the Law on Place Names guarantees the use of minority names. In Estonia this would primarily apply to names of Swedish or Russian origin used in areas where the minorities have lived. A special clause of the law stipulates that the linguistic situation of the year 1939 has to be taken into account when deciding minority names. After that year, with the beginning of the war and the following mass migrations the

local population structure changed significantly. Although most of the Swedes left their areas during the war and some formerly Estonian-populated territories have now been settled by later immigrants, the law gives priority to historic names.

A new feature in the law is the provision for parallel names. Where there have been historically mixed linguistic areas two official names may be approved, one in the language of the local majority and the other from the local minority. Estonian names may stand first if they have become rooted and are nationally known. Parallel names are not allowed in the case of administrative or address units and cadastral units.

USE OF PLACE NAMES

This chapter of the law deals with the use of names in texts, signs, documents, etc. When a place name (including parallel names) has been approved, the exact full spelling must be used in all official contexts.

An article of the law also determines the principal elements of the address format.

The National Place Names Register is envisaged that will store all official names. The place names data of the national cartographic database shall serve as the basis for the register. The data are public.

As many place names used on maps in the strict sense of the law would remain unofficial, there is a clause stating that before entering such names onto the Basic Map of Estonia, the opinion of the Place Names Board will be asked.

CONCLUSIONS

Although the law has been applied for a relatively short time most of its regulations seem appropriate and timely. It was not easy to combine practical and legal aspects in a law with cultural and linguistic regulations that often have to be in the form of recommendations rather than prescriptions. The following next years will show the validity of such an approach.

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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

Paper submitted by Estonia**

* E/CONF.91/1.

** Prepared by the Place Names Board of Estonia.

97-31228 (E) 101297 151297

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

In the period from 1992 till 1997 there have been several major steps taken regarding the official standardization of geographi[illegible]ames in Estonia.

The Governmental Place Names Committee was formed on 2 November 1994, to advise the Government on name matters and to prepare legal acts concerning geographical names. During the Committee's three years of work many aspects of names standardization were dealt with. The Committee gave recommendations on the use of names of undersea features, on specific toponyms (e.g. on the island of Naissaar) and, most importantly, worked out a draft law regulating the approval and use of geographical names. The **Law on Place Names** (*kohanimeseadus*) was passed by Parliament on 11 December 1996 and came into force in January 1997, thus giving legal framework for geographical names standardization.

According to the law the **Place Names Board** (*kohanimenõukogu*) was formed by the Government on 17 June 1997, succeeding the former Place Names Committee. The Board has 15 members appointed by the Government. They represent various government institutions (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Communications, Language Board, Inspection for Antiquities Preservation), mapping institutions (Estonian Map Centre, Regio Map Publishers) as well as scientific and cultural institutions (Institute of Estonian Language, University of Tartu, Estonian Encyclopædia Publishers) and local government associations. The Chairman of the Board is the Minister of the Interior and the Board operates within the system of the same ministry.

The Board, as prescribed by its statute:
a) gives advice to authorities and officials approving place names;
b) forwards naming proposals to names authorities;
c) observes the use of official place names;
d) suggests corrections and supplements to legal acts dealing with place names;
e) gives statements on name matters to be decided by the Government;
f) approves the use of non-official place names on the Basic Map of Estonia;
g) advises authorities in the case of name disputes;
h) participates in the compilation and publication of gazetteers;
i) disseminates information on Estonia's place names and the principles of standardization both in Estonia and abroad.

Since its formation the Place Names Board has prepared for the Government some regulations needed to enforce the Law on Place Names: instructions on checking the linguistic status of names, approving memorial names, etc.

The Government has appointed the Institute of Estonian Language as the Office for Onomastic Expertise, to conduct research into onomastics and to advise names authorities on the standardization of geographical names.

Reform of the list of populated places

The Place Names Board has undertaken the revision of the list of populated places. The working group on names of populated places completed the survey of proposals by local governments to expand the present official list of populated places dating from 1977. That year a reform had taken place that halved the number of previous official names. Many small villages were then administratively joined into large ones thus deleting officially their names from the list. Among them were quite a few names, written records of which go back as far as the 13th century. Following wide-spread discontent with that decision, and the adoption of new regulations, it became possible in 1997 to start reversing many of the decisions of 1977. In October 1997 the new list was sent to local governments for final approval and it is expected that the Government will approve the names before the end of the year 1997. The total number of populated places will thereby increase from 3,500 to 4,500. The second phase of the reform is planned for October 1998.

The new list has been compiled according to the regulations laid down in the Law on Place Names. It is worth mentioning that in the county of Võrumaa there will be official names containing local phonetic features that had not until now been reflected in standardized toponyms (vowel harmony, indication of palatalization, etc.).

Minority names

The Law on Place Names provides for the use of minority toponyms in certain conditions, depending on the initiative of local governments. The draft list of populated places contains both Estonian and Swedish names for the parish of Noarootsi where 3 populated places will be listed with only Swedish names (*Hosby, Österby, Einby*) and 19 places with both Estonian and Swedish name variants (*Pürksi/Birkas, Tahu/Skåtanäs, Tuksi/Bergsby, Kudani/Gutanäs* etc). Also some names from other parishes (e.g. Vormsi) have been rectified to follow the Swedish orthography rather than the Estonian modifications used since 1977, e.g. *Borrby*, not "Borbi", *Diby*, not "Diibi".

The Law will also protect Russian-language place names used in villages along the coast of Lake Peipsi and other areas of historic Russian settlements.

Cartographic programmes

Basic Map of Estonia. AS Eesti Kaardikeskus (Estonian Map Centre) has published 64 sheets of maps on scale 1 : 20,000 (October 1997), covering parts of Central Estonia (from Rapla till Türi), South East Estonia (eastern half of Võrumaa) and areas on the west coast of Lake Peipsi. Special attention has been paid on place names in the south-east. There the mapping enterprise collaborates with the Võru Institute that has supplied most of the names on the map sheets of Võrumaa.

Base map of Estonia. A digital cartographic database for the scale 1 : 50,000, based on satellite pictures by Satellitbild, has been completed. 13 sheets from North West Estonia have been printed. This database is also used to produce the topographical defence map of 1 : 50,000 (programme started 1997), and census maps needed for the census of the year 2000. There are plans for compiling maps on scale 1 : 100,000 and 1 : 250,000.

Sea charts. The National Maritime Board and AS Regio have issued 9 marine charts on scale 1 : 100,000 that cover virtually all of Estonian territorial waters, and 2 charts on scale 1 : 250,000. Various charts on scale 1 : 50,000 have been prepared. Navigation charts for Lake Peipsi (survey chart 1 : 250,000 and sheets on 1 : 50,000) are planned.

Other maps. An administrative map of Estonia (1 : 400,000), compiled by Jäŋa sēta, was published in 1996. In 1992 a 4-sheet topographic map of Estonia was printed.

The most comprehensive privately produced cartographic work is the Estonian Road Atlas 1997/1998 (1 : 150,000) by AS Regio, published 1997. This completely digitally compiled atlas icludes an index of over 11,000 place names. Regio also has delivered a CD version of the atlas and made available an online-version (*http://atlas.regio.ee*) where it is possible to search with the help of 4000 place names.

Gazetteers and databases

At AS Eesti Kaardikeskus there is a toponymical database formed on the basis of digital mapping of 1 : 50,000, currently containing about 10,000 entries. This is being expanded with the nomenclature of the Basic Map, new sheets of which are produced digitally. The database is expected to form the basis for the National Place Names Register as envisaged by the Law on Place Names.

At the Institute of Estonian Language there is a place names database, currently holding 43,000 entries, incl. 10,000 names of foreign areas. The entries contain administrative affiliation of the

named features, feature codes, linguistic information (pronunciation, declension, language of the names) and other name forms (altogether 47,000 variants).

The traditional card index at the Institute of Estonian Language holds appr. 500,000 cards of names collected in field work. The collections are being gradually expanded, yearly about 2000 new cards are added. In newer collections names are localised on maps.

No new lists of names have been published in Estonia for the past five years. The gazetteer of populated places is planned for publication after the new list of the places has been finalised.

In June 1996 the Gazetteer of Estonia was published in the series of the gazetteers of the United States Board on Geographic Names. The names of the gazetteer were checked partly at the Institute of Estonian Language.

Other publications

Marja Kallasmaa's *Saaremaa kohanimed* (Place names of the island of Saaremaa. Tallinn 1996, 528 pp.) gives a comprehensive list of place names with older variants and possible etymologies. This major work is part of a series of regional studies on toponyms initiated by Valdek Pall in 1969.

EXONYMS

Main principles for writing foreign names were laid down by the Estonian Orthological Committee in 1983 when the first list of names of countries and capitals was published. The number of exonyms used that time was reduced significantly. The Committee also reiterated the principle that no nationally standardized name forms should be considered "mistakes" if used in Estonian texts.

A handbook on the writing of names of the former Soviet Union (*Nimekirjutusraamat*. Tallinn, 1993, 304 pp.) contains the Estonian transcription tables for names written in the Cyrillic alphabet. There are place names' lists of Ukraine, Belarus and Georgia. The book gives an introduction to the principles of names standardization written by Henn Saari.

A list of country names in Estonian, English, French, Russian and the local official languages (*Maailma maade nimed eesti, inglise, prantsuse, vene ja riigi ametikeeles*. Tallinn 1994, 102 pp.), compiled by Peeter Päll, gives long and short forms of the names, names of capitals, official languages, ISO two- and three-letter codes for the representation of names of countries and names of major administrative units (states, autonomous provinces, etc.). The aim is to provide a uniform Estonian spelling for these names as well as to guide in translating various texts.

The list of country names was further elaborated by the Language Committee of the Mother Tongue Society in 1996. The Committee also discussed other geographical names spellings, recommending more changes in favour of the official endonyms.

There are many examples of good use of these recommendations: the new globe in Estonian, produced by AS Regio (December 1995), Otava's school atlas produced in 1995, volumes of the Estonian Encyclopædia. At the same time general knowledge of the recommended name forms remains low, because no exhaustive listings have been published lately.

Romanization systems

In February 1996 the Minister of Education issued a decree for romanizing Russian names. The amended Estonian transcription table was accompanied by the international romanization system, approved by the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (1987). The so-called GOST 1983 system is also used on official maps.

The Language Committee of the Mother Tongue Society recommended in 1996 for use in Estonian texts also the current international systems for Arabic (the so-called amended Beirut system), Hebrew, Khmer, Korean (McCune-Reischauer), Persian and Thai names. Most of the systems are based on United Nations recommendations.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Estonia has actively participated in the work of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN, having the role of a coordinator. The first meeting of the Division was held in Tallinn in October 1995.

Representatives of Estonia have also participated as observers at meetings arranged by the Norden Division and the Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia Division of UNGEGN.

An expert from Estonia participated in the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards, attending two meetings of the Group in London. The third meeting was organized by the Institute of Estonian Language in Tallinn in July 1997.

At the end of August 1997 the Institute of Estonian Language organized a two-day seminar on legal aspects of place names that was attended by name researchers from Estonia, Finland and Norway. The programme included one day of lectures on various aspects of name planning, and a seminar focusing on the problems of legislation on names. The seminar was a follow-up of a similar successfully held seminar in Helsinki in April 1997.

ADDRESSES

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ANNEX

Changes in the administrative division of Estonia (1993-1997)

The following new parishes (communes) were formed in 1993: Kaiu, Kernu, Kiili, Saksi, Torgu.

The following former boroughs (second-grade towns) were raised to the status of towns in 1993: Abja-Paluoja, Karksi-Nuia, Kehra, Lihula, Loksa, Narva-Jõesuu, Põlva, Püssi, Rapla, Räpina, Saue, Võhma. The status of boroughs as administrative units was abolished, all other boroughs were termed as parishes. The former borough of Tamsalu was converted to town in 1996.

The borough of Viivikonna was incorporated into the town of Kohtla-Järve in 1993. The 4 city districts of Tallinn were abolished in 1993 and instead 8 districts (*linnaosa*) formed (Haabersti,

Kesklinn, Kristiine, Lasnamäe, Mustamäe, Nõmme, Pirita, Põhja-Tallinn). In 1996 the former borough of Pärnu-Jaagupi was amalgamated with the parish of Halinga under the name Halinga.

Three parishes have changed their names since 1992. The parish of Lauka became the parish of Kõrgessaare in 1993. Uulu was renamed as Tahkuranna in 1995. The name of Polli was changed to Karksi in 1997.

See also Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors - Estonia (Second Edition, October 1997).

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COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Geographical names of the Antarctic

Paper submitted by the United States of America**

* E/CONF.91/1.

** Prepared by Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary, United States Board on Geographic Names, United States Geological Survey.

97-32346 (E) 161297 191297

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The second edition of the United States Antarctic Gazetteer, Geographic Names of the Antarctic, has been published by the United States Board on Geographic Names. This new edition replaces the first edition published in 1980 and includes almost 1,000 additional entries. The cumulative reference catalogues 12,710 geographic names (through 1994) which have been recommended by the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN) and approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names. The expanded publication records official decisions by listing the official name, geographical coordinates, descriptive text, and reason for naming. Variant (unofficial) names appear as cross-references to official entries and are also listed collectively with a related entry. The gazetteer file is also available at the website for the United States Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) and is fully searchable (refer to the paper submitted by the United States of America on the United States toponymic website).

The gazetteer revision represents a joint effort by three federal agencies. The United States Geological Survey funded research and supplied production coordination; the National Science Foundation directed the printing of the publication; and funds for printing were provided by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency. Copies are available for US$ 42 from:

Superintendent of Documents
Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402
(202) 512-1800, telefax (202) 512-2250
Stock Number 038-000-00591-0

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TOPONYMIC WEBSITES

Homepage of the Place Names Board of Estonia

Paper submitted by Estonia**

* E/CONF.91/1.

** Prepared by Pëëter Päll, Head of Department, Institute of Estonian Language.

97-32042 (E) 011297 051297

At the first meeting of the newly formed Place Names Board of Estonia in June 1997, it was decided to seek greater openness in publishing information on geographical names. Press releases and other attempts to publicize decisions on names had been inadequate in the sense that for the general public only short and generally worded summaries appeared in some newspapers, but for those taking a greater interest in names matters it was not easy to get full and authentic information.

With the spread of the Internet and computer technology in Estonia, it became possible to reach the audience via World Wide Web. On 9 September 1997 the Place Names Board opened its first homepage (*http://www.eki.ee/knn/*), which was provided by a server at the Institute of the Estonian Language. Currently most of the documents of the Board have been converted into HTML documents and displayed on the homepage. These include the main legal acts (the Law on Place Names and other regulations, with explanations of terms), minutes of the Board's meetings and lists of currently discussed names. The structure and composition of the pages are still under discussion and therefore possible users are invited to contribute suggestions and advice.

One of the positive effects of the homepage has been that it can reduce significantly the amount of paper used. For example, when the list of populated places with about 4,500 names is discussed by the Board, instead of receiving hundreds of pages of documents with names, working group suggestions, etc., the Board members will be able to view the documents on the Board's homepage. About three quarters of the Board's members can access the Internet directly from their workplace, and the remainder will be able to find other points of access.

The same applies to other institutions interested in geographical names: local governments, mapping enterprises, researchers into local history, etc. Through the homepage they can benefit from the activities of the Place Names Board and also contribute to its work. Although the main texts of the homepage are in Estonian there is also an English page (*http://www.eki.ee/knn/index2.htm*) containing information on the Board's activities and titles or summaries of documents available in Estonian. Some of the documents will be translated into English as well.

A separate page is devoted to the activities of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). The information is in English, Estonian and Russian. There are also links to other information on geographical names, where references to names authorities and toponymic data all over the world are included. The objective is to make this list of links as exhaustive as possible.

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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

Report of the Baltic Division

Paper submitted by Estonia**

* E/CONF.91/1.

** Prepared by Pëëter Päll, Head of the Department, Institute of the Estonian Language.

97-32389 (E) 121297 191297

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REPORT OF THE BALTIC DIVISION

The Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts was established in pursuance of Resolution 1 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992. The Division comprises of experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation.

The work of the countries of the Division has mainly focused on the national programmes of the onomastic, cartographic and geographic institutions of the countries concerned. The reviews and results of the work are discussed in detail in the national reports of the individual countries.

DIVISIONAL MEETINGS

By the invitation of the Governmental Place Names Committee of Estonia the **First Meeting** of the Baltic Division was held in Tallinn, 26-27 October 1995, attended by 33 experts from 8 countries (Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine, United States), including observers. Participants discussed national standardization of place names, policy on exonyms and the implementation of United Nations resolutions on names standardisation. Particular emphasis was put on legislation concerning geographical names, as there had been drafts of laws compiled in Estonia and Latvia, dealing with the subject. Experts of the Division were also pleased to have reviews on names standardization activities in countries that sent observers to the meeting. Discussing organization of the Division, it was agreed that Estonia would coordinate the activities of the Division until the Seventh Conference. Experts elected Peeter Päll (Estonia) Chairman and Ojārs Bušs (Latvia) Vice-Chairman of the Division.

A **working meeting** of the Division was held in Rīga on 6 May 1996, attended by 20 experts from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Besides having usual reports on the development of national standardization programmes the plan of actions for the future was discussed. It was decided to research into the possibilities of organizing toponymic training courses for the region in 1997. Also the importance of toponymic guidelines for map and other editors was emphasized. Lively discussion took place on the role of dialects in standardizing place names.

The State Land Service of Latvia hosted the **Second Meeting** of the Baltic Division in Rīga, on 25 April 1997. The meeting followed successfully held international toponymic courses, and it was attended by 36 experts from 10 countries, including 29 participants from the four member countries of the Division (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russian Federation) and 7 observers from 6 other countries (Canada, Finland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, United States). Reports presented dealt with activities of national mapping authorities and onomastic institutions in the field of geographical names standardization. Preparations for the Seventh United Nations Conference were also discussed. It was agreed that Latvia would coordinate the activities of the Division for the next inter-conference period. Experts elected Jurģis Kavacs (Latvia) Chairman and Vidas Garliauskas (Lithuania) Vice-Chairman of the Baltic Division.

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER UNGEGN ACTIVITIES

Experts from Estonia and the Russian Federation attended the 17th and 18th sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, on 13-24 June 1994 and 12-23 August 1996, respectively. Reports on the activities of the Baltic Division were presented at both sessions.

Representatives of Estonia and Lithuania were guests at the First Meeting of the Eastern Europe, Northern and

Central Asia Division of UNGEGN, held in Kiev, Ukraine in October 1994. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were represented as observers also at the Second Meeting of the same division, held in Moscow in July 1996.

A representative of Estonia participated at the meeting of the Norden Division of UNGEGN in Oslo, May 1997. Both that and earlier participations by the Norden Division experts at meetings of the Baltic Division should be considered as an example of fruitful cooperation between various divisions of UNGEGN.

TOPONYMIC TRAINING COURSES

On 22 - 24 April 1997 the State Land Service of Latvia, the Scientific Laboratory of Regional Cartography and Toponymy at the University of Latvia, the State Language Centre, the Latvian Language Institute and the Baltic Division of UNGEGN organized in Rīga the International Training Courses in Toponymy of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN that was attended by 74 participants from 10 countries.

The course attendants were given a wide range of lectures on both international aspects of geographical names standardization as well as on national programmes in the Nordic countries, Canada and the United States. Particular emphasis was put on names automatization: data processing, database models, maintenance procedures, names web sites, etc. One day was devoted to matters of the Baltic Division members, this included a lively round table discussion on the standardization of dialectal names (reviews on policies in the three Baltic states as well as in Canada, Norway and Sweden) and toponymic guidelines.

These courses were highly valued by the participants who represented a whole range of institutions: national mapping authorities, language institutes, universities and academies of sciences, ministries, post agencies, statistics boards, national registers, schools and organizations dealing with research into local history.

The most sincere thanks are due to all guest lecturers from the Nordic countries, Canada and the United States who contributed most decisively to the success of the courses. The list of papers and other materials (incl. books, journals, maps and other publications as well as sets of transparents) presented exceeded over 50 items.

Participants were impressed by the smooth organization and exceptional hospitality shown by the Latvian hosts during the courses.

TOPONYMIC WEB SITES

Following the establishment of the homepage by the Place Names Board of Estonia, one of its pages

http://www.eki.ee/knn/ungegn/

also displays documents related to the activities of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN. Currently all reports of the Division presented at UNGEGN sessions, and reports of the divisional meetings have been published. It is hoped that in the future a number of other documents will be added, thus giving effective new means for divisional cooperation.

STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN LITHUANIA [1]

National standardization: names authorities

Standardization of geographical names is the responsibility of the Government. The State Committee of the Lithuanian Language at Seimas (parliament) of Lithuania functions as the names authority. A consultative subcommittee has been set up to deal with geographical names, it comprises of linguists, cartographers as well as representatives of various government agencies. The subcommittee reviews all naming proposals, name lists, spelling rules, etc. prior to their approval by the State Committee. The committee's decision is legally binding, adherence to the standards is supervised by a language inspection.

The Law on Local Government Units and Their Boundaries stipulates that names of populated places, applied by local governments, will be approved by the Government, after having considered the proposals of local inhabitants. Name applications, before their approval, should be accompanied by a written statement of the Onomastics Department, Institute of Lithuanian Language. Local governments are responsible for naming streets, squares and other local features within their boundaries.

Field collection of place names and mapping programmes

The field collection of Lithuanian place names was started in 1935 and is now almost complete with about 700,000 names in the card index at the Institute of Lithuanian Language. Each name record indicates localisation of the named feature (district, apilinka or parish, settlement), pronunciation of the name (often in the local dialect), year of collection, etc. Another source of names are lists of various standardized toponyms in compilation of which extensive field work was also carried out.

The national mapping authority, recently reorganized National Service of Geodesy and Cartography at the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, in entering geographical names on maps, relies mainly on published sources and the collections of place names at the Institute of Lithuanian Language. All maps will be checked at the Onomastics Department of the Institute of Lithuanian Language.

In 1995 the topographical map of Lithuania (1 : 200,000) on 24 sheets was published, also several tens of sheets of maps on scale 1 : 10,000 have been printed, as well as two nautical charts 22006-L and 82001 (1 : 200,000). Production of a topographical map according to the NATO standards of 1 : 50,000 has started, several sheets have been printed. An administrative map of Lithuania (1 : 600,000) was produced in 1992.

Registers, gazetteers and toponymic data files

Apart from the collections of place names at the Institute of Lithuanian Language the following published sources of standardized names could be mentioned: *Lietuvos TSR administracinio-teritorinio suskirstymo žinynas, I dalis*. Vilnius 1974, *II dalis*, Vilnius 1976 (names of populated places, officially reaffirmed in 1991); *Lietuvos TSR upių ir ežerų vardynas*. Vilnius 1963 (names of rivers and lakes of Lithuania).

In 1992-1997 the following gazetteers were published:

1) *Lietuvos miškų vardynas*. I (Names of Lithuanian forests, an alphabetical index of 8,000 forests). Kaunas 1994
2) *Lietuvos durpynų kadastras*. I-II. (Names of Lithuanian peat bogs, 7,000 names). Vilnius 1995
3) *Vietovardžių kirčiavimo žodynas* (Pronunciation dictionary of Lithuanian place names, compiled by M. Razmukaitė and V. Vitkauskas. Vilnius 1994)

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[1] information for the preparation of this section of the report was provided by the Institute of Lithuanian Language and the National Service of Geodesy and Cartography

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4) *Lietuvos miestų vardai* (Names of Lithuanian towns by Aleksandras Vanagas, edited by V. Maciejauskienė. Vilnius, Mokslo ir enciklopedijų leidykla, 1996)

A comprehensive dictionary of Lithuanian place names "Lietuvos vietovardžių žodynas" is planned, currently compiling instructions are being prepared.

At the National Service of Geodesy and Cartography digital mapping (1 : 50,000) on the basis of satellite pictures will be completed by the end of 1997. The LTDBK 50000-V database comprises of 135 sheets, geographical names on each sheet are available in a digital format. In the GIS Centre the georeference database at scale 1 : 200,000 (GDB 200) is available.

Various other government agencies are maintaining registers or cadastres on different geographical and other features: administrative units and populated places; lakes and reservoires; streets; roads; forests; preserved areas; rivers; physio-geographical features for GIS applications; territories and countries of the world (on the basis of the ISO 3166 standard).

Exonyms

The principles of writing foreign place names are undergoing a period of transition at present. For place names the traditional practice has been transcription and this was reflected in the instruction for writing non-Lithuanian names in the Lithuanian encyclopædia (1986). In compiling the map of 1 : 200,00 of Lithuania the first attempt was made to use the original spellings or transliterations of names. Transliteration rules for Russian and Byelorussian names were adopted in 1990-1991. In 1991 the State Committee of the Lithuanian Language allowed the use of original, i.e. non-transcribed name forms in scientific and other special texts, however recommending that traditional transcriptions be preserved in educational literature. Rooted exonyms like *Lenkija* 'Poland', *Vokietija* 'Germany', *Paryžius* 'Paris', *Viena* 'Wien', etc. will be maintained.

A special category of exonyms are authentic Lithuanian place names of adjoining territories that reflect historical relationship of Lithuania with the places. Another problematic area that needs special attention and historical reevaluation is the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation. In August 1997 the State Committee of the Lithuanian Language approved a list of 500 traditional Lithuanian names of the Kaliningrad region, prepared by M. Razmukaitė.

The State Committee of the Lithuanian Language approved in January 1995 the list of names of countries (short and long forms of names in Lithuanian, published in "Gimtoji kalba" 1995 No 3) and in May 1996 the list of capital names. The Committee also adopted in February 1996 the Lithuanian equivalent to the international system for the romanization of Chinese names (*pinyin*), and in 1997 the Lithuanian equivalent to the romanization system of Japanese names.

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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

National report of Israel for the period 1992-1997

Paper submitted by Israel**

* E/CONF.91/1.

** Prepared by Prof. N. Kadmon, Head of the Delegation of Israel.

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Since the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York in 1992, numeroud toponymic issues have been actively dealt with at Government, Public and Private/Commercial level.

1 The National Toponymic Database

The *Survey of Israel*, the Governmental surveying and mapping authority, is the carrier of the national toponymic database which is steadily being built up, in both geometrical and temporal dimensions. Temporally, the database is being updated and names approved by the Government Names Commission are being incorporated, and corrections, renaming and other toponomastic changes are introduced. Geometrically, coordinates are being corrected where necessary. These are now also converted into the New Israeli Topographic Grid which is based on the Israeli Transverse Mercator Cylindrical Projection differing from the former Cassini-Soldner Projection. It should be mentioned that map reference coordinates indicate the location of the topographic feature (i.e. its centre, where relevant, with start-and-end points for linear features) – and not those of the respective annotation. The database was originally based on the *Toponomasticon – Geographical Gazetteer of Israel* [1]. However, a new format is now being devised.

2 New "Plene" Spelling Rules for Hebrew Names in Maps

Hebrew has, in effect, two sets of spelling rules. The first is the fully vocalized orthography ("ketív ḥasér") based on the texts of the Bible (Old Testament), the Mishnah and the Talmud. This is somewhat cumbersome, and besides, in map work the vocalization marks are frequently lost in the reproduction process. Israelis are taught from grade three to read unvocalized text. Thus, all newspapers and books – with the exception of junior school books and sacred texts – as well as road signs and other notices are printed without the vocalizing points in the so-called plene spelling (ketív malé). This, standardized by the Academy of the Hebrew Language, introduces certain standard consonantic letters (so-called matres lectionis) to substitute for vocalization marks. Until recently all maps of the Survey of Israel were printed with full vocalization. The sheets of the new series of digital GIS-derived topographic maps are being produced with all names and other annotations in unvocalized plene spelling.

But while plene spelling is normally adequate for Hebrew texts, names (and in particular foreign names), sometimes require partial vocalization in addition, in order to avoid possible ambiguity. The Survey of Israel is currently dealing with the problem of embodying this in its national database.

It should be stressed that plene orthography does in no way alters pronunciation, and transliteration of Hebrew geographical names is hardly affected.

3 Romanization of Hebrew

As reported in Working Paper No. 5 presented to the 18th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in August 1996 [2], the official romanization system of Hebrew is under review after 40 years of rigorous application by the *Survey of Israel* only. Other bodies have been, and are, using different (unofficial) romanization systems. The official Israeli system was approved by the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1977 [3]. Many complaints have been received from various quarters concerning the official system, which is neither very user-friendly nor fully reversible. At the 18th Session of UNGEGN reservations were expressed, mainly by representatives of world-atlas producing countries. Similar reservations were heard in the past from similar sources against the introduction of Pinyin (for Chinese) and Gost 1983 (for Russian Cyrillic). It is important to cater to the needs of actual map users; by far the majority of these are not toponymists, cartographer or scientists but the millions of tourists visiting Israel who must be assisted in *asking* their way around the country with the aid of maps. In such cases a romanization system representing the original Hebrew chiefly *by sound* is preferable to one rigidly representing the *orthography*. See the separate paper to the Seventh Conference on this topic.

A special Commission on Geographical Names Orthography is dealing with this issue. Among the institutions represented on it are the *Survey of Israel*, the Public Works Department, the Government Tourism Corporation, the Nature Reserves Authority, the National Parks Authority (all dealing with mapping and/or road signposting) as well as the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A survey of tourists on this matter is now being conducted, in order to decide whether changes – and which – should be recommended. This seems to be more than can be claimed by many romanization systems.

4 Exonyms

Following Working Paper L.7 with the title "Donor-recommended exonyms: a different approach to traditional names" presented by Israel to the Sixth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in New York, 1992 [4], the Commission on Geographical Names Orthography mentioned in para. 3 above has prepared a list of topographic features in Israel for which English exonyms may be used on official road signposts and, as secondary names, in official maps (after the respective official endonym). These are generally English conventional or traditional names following the forms found in the King James (Authorised) version of the Bible. According to the donor system outlined in the paper mentioned above [4], these exonyms or their equivalents in languages other than English, are recommended for use also by foreign map-making and other, especially toponomastic, institutions. See list in a separate paper to the Seventh Conference.

5 Private Mapping Toponymy

As reported already to the Sixth Conference in 1992 [4], there is no uniformity in the application of romanization to geographical names in Israel. Whereas in Hebrew maps of the country produced by private mapping institutions official names are generally used, either fully vocalized or in plene orthography (see para. 2 above), some private publishers of maps in English and in other foreign languages have indeed been using the official romanization system since its introduction 40 years ago, while others use different and divergent systems. The same seems to be true of other countries with non-Roman scripts. In some cases these unofficial romanization systems are more attuned to the needs of the majority of users of romanized maps in Israel, and tend to be more user-friendly (see para. 3 above). In fact, some of the changes in romanization proposed by the Commission on Geographical Names Orthography follow along the same lines. This trend may lead to a narrowing of the gap between the different romanization systems, and might in time eliminate it altogether.

6 Glossary of Toponymic Terminology

The Israeli convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Terminology who serves as editor of the *Glossary of Toponymic Terminology* has continued to update, revise and edit the Glossary in English. At the 18th Session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names in Geneva in 1996 he presented version 3. At this session the Glossary was finalized and approved, and in this form (version 4) was sent to the UNGEGN Secretariat in New York for distribution to the translators into the five other official languages of the United Nations. Preliminary translations of version 2 had already been made into Chinese, French and Spanish, and these now require only updating to version 4. A German translation had also been printed.

7 International Cooperation

Since the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Israel has taken part in toponymic activities in countries of three other geographical-linguistic divisions. The chief delegate of Israel has lectured at two toponymic training courses held in the Republic of South Africa (1992, 1994); at two seminars on the name *Sea of Japan/East Sea* held in Seoul, Korea (one national, 1994, and one international, 1997); and at a national toponymic seminar held by the Department of Survey and Land Information (DOSLI) in New Zealand (Wellington, 1994).

8 Cooperation with the International Cartographic Association and ICOS

The Commission on Education and Training of the International Cartographic Association (Chairman Prof. F. Ormeling) has prepared and published an international manual in three volumes (and a volume of exercises) titled *Basic Cartography for Students and Technicians*. Volume 3 includes a chapter headed "Toponymy – theory and practice of geographical names", written by N. Kadmon. At the suggestion of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Onomastic Science (ICOS) at its meeting in June 1994, the same author prepared a paper describing the tasks and work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. This appeared in 1995 under the title "Luxor or Al-Uqsur – Skagerak, Skagerack or Skagerrak? The United Nations and the standardization of geographical names" in *Onoma* [5].

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[2] "Theoretical and practical considerations for changes in the romanization of Hebrew". 18th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Geneva, 1996, Working Paper No. 5.

[3] "Romanization of the Hebrew alphabet". *Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*, Athens, 1977, vol. I, Report of the Conference, Resolution No. 13, pp. 29-33.

[4] "Donor-recommended exonyms: a different approach to traditional names". *Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*, New York, 1992,, vol. II, Technical Papers, p. 365.

[5] N. Kadmon, "Luxor or Al-Uqsur – Skagerak, Skagerack or Skagerrak? The United Nations and the standardization of geographical names". *Onoma*, Journal of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, vol. 32 (1994-1995), Leuven, 1995, pp. 140-154.

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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

Report of the East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic) for the period 1992-1997

Paper submitted by Israel**

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** Prepared by Prof. N. Kadmon, Head of the delegation of Israel.

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1 The Toponymic Database

The map-making authorities within the Division are proceeding with the production of the digital GIS-derived map series on various scales. In particular, the new 1:25,000 scale topographic map series is based chiefly on the digital toponymic database. This includes all names officially conferred or ratified which, therefore, have legal status. Among these are the names of all populated places, all archaeological sites and ruins, all natural topographic features (orographic, hydrographic etc.) including all nature reserves and national parks, as well as names of interurban road and transport systems such as road interchanges and major junctions.

Thematic maps, and in particular the 1:50,000 scale geological maps produced in the division as well as the very popular 1:50,000 Nature Trail series, carry the names appearing in the topographic base maps taken from the digital toponymic data base, whereas names pertaining to the thematic component of the map (chiefly geological terminology in the first case and environmental as well as touristic nomenclature in the second) are supplied by the respective professional bodies.

As was the case with the analog maps in the past, the new digital town maps and plans derived partly from the national GIS carry names received from the respective municipal authorities, not necessarily in digital format. Street and other names within the areas of municipalities and other local authorities such as local and regional councils are not governed by the Government Names Commission and are, in most cases, conferred by local names boards, sometimes lacking the uniformity accorded by decisions of the national names authority.

2 Review of Transliteration Systems

Forty years have passed since the present romanization system of Hebrew was approved by the Academy of the Hebrew Language (1956) and published in the Official Gazette No. 519 of the State of Israel in 1957. An even longer time has elapsed since the introduction of the transliteration system from Arabic into Hebrew (1941). These two transliteration systems have been consistently applied in all official maps of Israel. However, while also used in signposting on the interurban road net, there have been various bodies, public and private, who deviated from these rules in dealing with geographical names. This fact resulted from the different linguistic background of these bodies, often employing names in phonetic transcription and not in reversible transliteration. In particular this was evident in romanization used in touristic texts (e.g. brochures, guidebooks and maps) published in the different languages spoken by the tourists, which often make use of phonetic transcription into these separate languages.

The predominant language of the Division, namely Hebrew, has been under review as regards orthography in maps (with "plene" spelling replacing vocalized orthography in all official digital maps produced within the Division [1]) and concerning romanization [2]. Transliteration from Arabic into Hebrew is also being reviewed.

3 Terminology – List of Generic Terms in Hebrew

A new list of Hebrew generic terms in toponymy was prepared in 1994. This includes all generic terms appearing in Israeli geographical names. In this connection it may be mentioned that the descriptive term (not a generic) *Irish bridge* appears 162 times in the topographic maps of Israel. A study of the relation of this term to Israeli geography and cartography has been made, based, among others, on material kindly provided by the chairman of the Celtic division, Mr. Art Ó Maolfabhail.

4 Inter-Divisional Cooperation

Since the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names the East Mediterranean (other than Arabic) linguistic-geographical division has taken part in toponymic activities of three other divisions. Following the first UNGEGN training course in toponymy for Southern African countries held in 1992 in Pretoria, South Africa, the East Mediterranean division was again involved in the second course organized by the Africa South division. The chairman of the East Mediterranean division was one of the lecturers at this course held in Pretoria, Transvaal (with fieldwork in the Orange Free State and in Lesotho), presenting talks on, and practical exercises in, (1) *Introduction to Toponymy*, (2) *Recording and Storage of Geographical Names*, (3) *Name Lists and Gazetteers*, (4) *The Standardization of Toponymic Terminology*, (5) *Languages and Scripts of the World*, (6) *Translation, Transliteration and Transcription in Maps and Atlases*, and (7) *Toponymy as a Political Tool*.

In Seoul, Korea (Asia East) the division chairman lectured at two seminars, one national (in 1994) and one international (1997), on the topic of the name *Sea of Japan/East Sea*, a political-toponymic problem brought before the UN Group of Experts and the Conferences on several occasions. In 1974 the representative of the division took part as lecturer in a toponymic seminar held by the Department of Survey and Land Information (DOSLI) in Wellington, New Zealand (Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West division).

Some years ago the Dutch- and German-Speaking division (DGSD) of UNGEGN decided to produce a German version of the *Glossary of Toponymic Terminology* adapted to the particular needs of the member-states of this division. In 1993 a tentative translation into German was produced, and the chairman of the East Mediterranean division, as editor of the *Glossary of Toponymic Terminology* was asked to review it and add comments and corrections. An improved final version was later produced, with the collaboration of numerous members of the German Ständiger Ausschuß für Geographische Namen (StAGN), the Dutch- and German-Speaking division and the editor of the UNGEGN *Glossary*. This appeared as *Deutsches Glossar zur toponymischen Terminologie*, published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main, in 1995.

5 Toponymic Literature

The first official gazetteer of the division, which previously was available only in digital format or as a computer printout of same, appeared in 1994 also in book form as *Toponomasticon – Geographical Gazetteer of Israel* [3]. This is a completely bilingual (Hebrew-English) production.

The Division is also represented in two publications produced by the University of Pretoria, South Africa, namely *An Introduction to Toponymy* [4] and *Training Course in Toponymy for Southern Africa* [5].

6 Information Paper on UNGEGN and the Conferences for ICOS

At the request of the the Board of Directors of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) at its meeting in Oslo in June 1994, a detailed informative paper on the aims and activities of the United

Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names has been written by the chairman of the East Mediterranean division. This appeared in *ONOMA* in 1995 [6].

7 Education

Courses in Toponymy continued to be held in the Department of Geography of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, reported upon in detail already to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1987 [7] and recently in 1996 [8]. A new training manual for these courses has been written.

Notes

[1] "Plene vs. vocalized orthography of names in Hebrew GIS-derived digital topographic maps." Seventh UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 1998. Paper submitted by Israel.

[2] "Considerations for and against the revision of a romanization system – the case of Hebrew". Seventh UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 1998. Paper submitted by Israel.

[3] N. Kadmon, *Toponomastican – Geographical Gazetteer of Israel*. Survey of Israel and "Carta", Jerusalem, 1994.

[4] — *An Introduction to Toponymy – Theory and Practice of Geographical Names*. University of Pretoria, 1993.

[5] United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, *Training Course in Toponymy for Southern Africa*. Edited by P.S. Hattingh, N. Kadmon, P.E. Raper and I. Booysen. University of Pretoria, 1993.

[6] N. Kadmon, "Luxor or al-Uqsur – Skagerak, Skagerack or Skagerrak? The United Nations and the Standardization of Geographical Names". *ONOMA*, vol. 32 (1994-1995), pp. 140-154.

[7] "Toponymy courses at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem". Fifth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1987, vol. II, Technical Papers, pp. 467-469.

[8] N. Kadmon, "Toponymy as a University discipline". 19th International Congress of Onomastic Science, Aberdeen, 1996.

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TERMINOLOGY IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Report of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology for the period 1992-1997

Paper submitted by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Working Group on Toponymic Terminology**

* E/CONF.91/1.

** Prepared by Prof. N. Kadmon, Convenor, Working Group on Toponymic Terminology.

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1. Terms of Reference of the Working Group

At the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1992, the text for a resolution concerning the activity of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology was presented as document E/CONF.85/L.5. This was discussed by both the Group of Experts and the Conference and adopted by the latter as Resolution No. 11, charging the Working Group "to continue to function with the aim of producing a multilingual dictionary of toponymic terminology to include [besides English] the remaining five official languages of the United Nations". See Appendix A to the present report for a full text of the resolution. This resolution then constitutes the terms of reference of the Working Group.

2. Working Group Membership.

Formally, the following Experts were named as members of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology by the UNGEGN at its 14th Session in 1989:

Ms. Kerfoot (Canada)
Ms. Närhi (Finland)
Mr. Ficor (Hungary)
Mr. Gonzales (Spain)
Mr. Hornansky (Czechoslovakia)
Mr. Lapierre (Canada)
Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom)
Mr. Payne (United States of America)
Mr. Raper (South Africa)
Mr. Sievers (Federal Republic of Germany)
Mr. Kadmon (Israel), convenor and editor of the *Glossary of Toponymic Terminology*.

While most of these have continued to be active, some haye not. The list of UNGEGN experts who indicated at the 17th Session in 1994 their willingness to be members of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology was as follows:

Ms. Kerfoot (Canada)
Ms. Lejeune (France)
Ms. Närhi (Finland)
Mr. Abdo (Saudi Arabia)
Mr. Cruz (Spain)
Mr. Dorion (Canada)
Mr. Hornansky (Czech Republic)
Mr. Kotsonis (Cyprus)
Mr. Payne (United States of America)
Mr. Pokoly (Hungary)
Mr. Quinting (United Staes of America)
Mr. Raper (South Africa)

Mr. Sievers (Federal Republic of Germany)
Mr. Kadmon (Israel), convenor and editor of the *Glossary*.

3. Meetings of the Working Group

Since the Sixth Conference, the Working Group held the following meetings:
New York, 28 August 1992
New York, 1 September 1992
New York, 15 June 1994
Geneva, 15 August 1996.
While in the past the meetings of the Working Group were "closed" ones (though open to non-member Experts who wished to take part in the discussions), at the Geneva 18th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names the meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology was declared an "open" session of the entire Group of Experts. This resulted in a greater amount of input to the Working Group's work, and indeed the amendments to the English version – with the exception of the terms "endonym" and "exonym" (see below) – were finalized on this occasion. The definitions of these last two terms were then reviewed, debated and adopted at the session on Exonyms of the Group of Experts, which was *de facto* a continuation of that on Terminology. It can safely be said that no UNGEGN document was as widely and thoroughly discussed as the *Glossary*.

4. The Terms "Exonym" and "Endonym"

Among the 375 terms included in the *Glossary of Toponymic Terminology*, none attracted the amount of discussion as did these two expressions. After lengthy deliberations the following definitions were adopted:

endonym: Name of a geographical feature in one of the languages occurring in that area where the feature is situated.

exonym: Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical feature is situated.

5. First Utilization of the Glossary at United Nations Training Courses

The early English version of the *Glossary of Toponymic Terminology* has been used at least twice in a toponymic training environment. Version 1.2 was introduced at the first UN Training Course in Toponymy for Southern African Countries held in Pretoria, South Africa, in July 1992, with a lecture about the Dictionary by the Convenor being followed by a practical exercise in its application by the students. This feature was repeated in the second course, again held in Pretoria, in September 1993. The Glossary was appended to the training manual *An Introduction to Toponymy – Theory and Practice of Geographical Names* by N. Kadmon published by the Department of Geography, University of Pretoria, 1993 (ISBN 0-86979-905-3).

6. Programme of Activities, 1994-1996

In complying with a request by the rapporteur of the Group of Experts the convenor supplied, on 21 June 1994, a detailed prognosis of the activities concerning the *Glossary of Toponymic Terminology* for the period 1994-1996. See Appendix B.

Version 2 of the *Glossary of Toponymic Terminology*, based on discussions by the Working Group in 1992, was distributed to its members in 1994. Version 3, based on work in 1994, was distributed to all members of the Group of Experts in 1996. Examples, including those in 16 different languages and scripts, were added by the convenor/editor.

7. Translation into the other UN Official Languages.

Resolution No. 11 of the Sixth Conference recommends, in para. 1 (b), that the UN Secretariat be asked ".... to supply .... a translation of the new Glossary from English into each of the other five official languages of the United Nations." Furthermore, it was agreed (para. 2) that, after basic translation by the Conference and Translation Services, the Group of Experts "... appoint one or more experts ... to coordinate and be responsible for the translation into each of these languages". During discussions of this item by the Group of Experts on 4 September 1992 the representative of the Conference and Translation Services informed the Group that translation could be effected only after the beginning of 1993. Accordingly, the Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology on 10 February 1993 dispatched the material to be translated, amended after the meetings of the Working Group on 28 August and 1 September 1992, to the Secretariat in New York, both on diskette and as a laser printout.

On 17 September 1993 the Convenor was informed that the Secretariat was still "... searching for funds [for translation] .... but the chance is not too promising due to the unprecedented lack of funds being experienced by the United Nations at the present time".

On 4 October 1993 the UN Translation Unit informed the Convenor via the Secretariat that "since the translators do not possess the expertise to adequately deal with technical terms, they suggest that this glossary of terminology be made available to the experts nominated for each language so that they could edit the translation of these technical terms in conformity with changes and/or additions introduced by you".

Consequently, the 17th Session of UNGEGN asked for volunteers from among the Experts to translate the *Glossary* into their respective languages. The following Experts kindly offered their services, which the UNGEGN gratefully accepted:

Ms. S. Lejeune and M. H. Dorion – French;
Mr. Du Xiangming – Chinese;
Mr. J. Cruz – Spanish.

Since no volunteers were found for the remaining languages, it was decided that the U.N. Documentation, Reference and Terminology Service again be asked to perform at least the translation into Arabic and Russian. To this end the convenor, as editor of the *Glossary*, supplied the UNGEGN Secretariat in New York with both a diskette of Ver. 2 and a clean camera-ready laser printout for distribution to the above named Experts and the Chief of the U.N. Documentation Service. On 23 June 1994 a request to this effect was handed to the UNGEGN Secretariat. On 29 October 1994 a reminder

was sent. After a further letter on 9 April 1996 the Convenor was informed by the Secretariat that owing to a lack of resources no progress had been made with the translations into Russian and Arabic by the U.N. Reference and Terminology Services.

The situation at the time of writing (October 1997) is as follows:

Chinese – Prof. Du Xiangming had supplied the convenor with a first translation of Version 2 into Chinese in June 1994, and a corrected and improved printout in July 1996.

French – the French form of Version 2 of the *Glossary*, translated and edited by Mme. Lejeune (France) and M. Dugas (Canada), was handed to the convenor during the 18th Session of the UNGEGN in August 1996.

Spanish – Sr. Cruz sent his translation of Version 2 to the convenor in July 1997.

Russian – no progress reported.

Arabic – no progress reported.

Thus, while the work of editing the Glossary during the period 1989-1994, when no input of resources on the part of the UN Secretariat was involved, adhered strictly to the timetable, the same cannot be said for the period under review, owing to cuts in UN budgets. It is hoped that the Arabic and Russian translations will be received before or during the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

8. Translation into German

The Dutch- and German-Speaking Division of UNGEGN decided in 1993 to have the Dictionary translated into German. Dr. Karl-August Seel and Dr. Jörn Sievers negotiated the first contact with the Convenor and, after completion of the rough translation, asked the latter to send his comments and corrections concerning the German version. This request was complied with. The German *Ständiger Ausschuß für Geographische Namen* (Permanent Committee for Geographical Names) then produced a final German version, which was published by the *Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie* in Frankfurt/Main in 1995.

9. Activity since the 18th Session of UNGEGN

As mentioned in para. 3 above, the amendments to the English version of the *Glossary* were finalized at the 18th Session of the UN Group of Experts in 1996. After this session the convenor incorporated all additions, deletions and changes in Version 3, which now constitutes Version 4. In March, 1997 this was sent to the UNGEGN Secretariat in New York, both in digital format on diskette and as a clean camera-ready hard copy, for transmission to the translators into the five remaining official languages of the United Nations. The translators into those languages for which translations have already been received, namely Chinese, French and Spanish, only have to incorporate in their translations the amendments which constitute Version 4.

10. Tasks for the Future

Since, for reasons outside the influence of the Working Group or its convenor, the original timetable (see Appendix B) cannot be adhered to, the most urgent tasks now are (a) to have the *Glossary* translated into the missing official languages of the United Nations, (b) have the translations into Chinese, French and Spanish brought to Version 4 standard, and (c) have the entire material collated, checked and edited by the Convenor/Editor. In view of the Sixth Conference "recognizing that, to achieve maximum effect in the standardization of geographical names at national and international levels, the glossary should be available to as wide a readership as possible" (Resolution No. 11), it is hoped that this project will be given the necessary assistance and facilities by the Secretariat, whose task has already been made much easier by the above-named Experts' willingness to perform the translations free of charge.

A further task resulting from the terms of reference, both current and extending into the future, will be reviewing and periodically updating the *Glossary*, as recommended in Resolution 11 (Recommendation 3) of the Sixth Conference. The most economical way of doing this will have to be discussed.

Appendix A

Resolution No. 11 of the Sixth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1992

Glossary of Toponymic Terminology

The Conference

Noting that a new glossary has been prepared by the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology, as recommended by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its fifteenth session,

Noting further that, in accordance with the same recommendation, the glossary was compiled, in the first stage, in English only,

Recognizing that, to achieve maximum effect in the standardization of geographical names at national and international levels, the glossary should be available to as wide a readership as possible,

1. Recommends:

(a) That the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology be asked to continue to function, with the aim of producing a multilingual dictionary of toponymic terminology to include the remaining five official languages of the United Nations;

(b) That the United Nations Secretariat be asked to supply, within an agreed time-frame and within existing resources, a translation of the new Glossary from English into each of the other five official languages of the United Nations;

2. Recommends further that the United Nations group of Experts on Geographical Names, at its sixteenth session, appoint one or more experts to the Working Group to coordinate and be responsible for the translation into each of these languages;

3. Recommends also that the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology be asked to review the glossary periodically and update it as necessary.

Appendix B

Working Group on Toponymic Terminology.
Prognosis of Activities, 1994-1996

The prognosis of activities, as submitted to the UNGEGN rapporteur on 21 June 1994, at the time of the 17th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, was as follows:

1. Version 2 had been supplied to the New York Secretariat in 1993 on both diskette and printout (only the latter includes all examples in 11 writing systems and scripts, which is one of the innovations of this *Glossary* introduced by the editor). Copies of these to be sent by the Secretariat to the Experts who volunteered to translate the English text, as well as to the U.N. Reference and Terminology Service, to be received by 31 July 1994.

2. Translation into French and Spanish by the respective Experts, and into Arabic and Russian by U.N. Reference and Terminology Service to be completed by 31 December 1994. Note: the translation into Chinese had already been performed.

3. All translated material to be returned to the UNGEGN Secretariat by 15 June 1995.

4. All material to be sent by the Secretariat to the Convenor of the Working Group by 31 July 1995.

5. Material to be collated by the Convenor and returned to the Secretariat by 31 December 1995.

6. All material in the six U.N. official languages to be reproduced by the Secretariat prior to the 18th Session of UNGEGN.